

## **Andrew Jackson to Daniel Smith, November 28, 1807, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO DANIEL SMITH.**

Hermitage, November 28, 1807

Some time ago I made a return to the Secretary of war of the volunteers who had tendered their service to the united states, under the law, and who were ready for service at the call of the government, and that at a minutes warning. I stated at that time that it was only a partial return, and as soon as I obtained compleat returns under my orders for that purpose I would forwarded them, requesting of him in the [mean time] to advise me how they were to be organized, and whether any particular form was to be observed in making out the returns, other than, the one I had adopted. I have lately recd. returns compleat from the differrent Brigades and was about to forward them by this mail but casting my eyes over the Presidents message on the subject of the volunteers, I observe this sentence "They are ordered to be organized, and ready at a moments warning etc., etc., etc." not having recd any such orders, I have posponed any further returns least his honour thro the influence of his virtuous, immaculate, unspotted, and patriotic Genl Wilkingson, from whom perhaps he has recd, another Bulletin, that may still hold me out as a conspirator to hide his own guilt—his excellency the secretary at war may think it dangerous to trust me. for these reasons I have not sent on my full returns, nor will I untill I receive an answer to my letter to him on this subject. I forwarded to him returns, of 22 companies compleat—since which I have recd. returns of Eight more mounted infantry and cavalry, and from Genl Roberts I have recd. no additional return. notwithstanding I have been informed from his regimental officers, that there are several companies, made up since his return to me. The object of this part of this letter is that you may name it to

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the President, that there is ready at a minutes warning, and subject to immediate [du]ty Eight full companies, with officers at their head that will give a good account of any equal number, that dare insult freemen.

From certain intellegence, that I am in possession of, that not only [came?] from Genl Wilkingson, but from two other channels that are and may obtain higher respect, than any thing that could come from the genl, particularly from the heavy clouds of guilt that now hang over him; that certain communications have been made to the President, relative to me (from one I have recd. acknowledgements of the injury he had done me, by the communications and this too at the time I was informed that such' communications were made) I say from this circumstance, it may become a duty I owe my own feelings (for Publick oppinion I am reguardless of), to make a statement, to the publick, accompanied with such proofs as I am in possession of, to shew my [friends] that the confidence once reposed in my patriotism and republican principles, have never been violated on my part, and if I have been suspected by the administrators of the goverment, that I am still pure, and those perhaps (I mean the Secratory at war [ *mutilated* ] give credence to it, from proof presumtive, has been acting the same game with Jamy Wilkingson, raising suspicions against others, to hide his own guilt. for this purpose then; I must request you to forward me a coopy of my letter to you and Doctor Dickson, of date about this time twelve months with your certificate thereon that it is a true coopy. I observe from the proof that gallatine is hinted at. believe not this, if any of the Secrataries were knowing to the thing, the proof if ever reached, will bring it home to the *war* department—but I hope, for the honour of republicanism for the honour of our nation, and for the sake of virtue that none of them were knowing to the plan, I mean of an *attack* on the *integrity* of the *union* . I have no doubt nor have I had of the guilt of Wilkingson; from the proofs I see exhibitted against him at Richmond. these are light as air compared to those that will be exhibitted if I am rightly informed; and say to the President, for his own sake, for the sake of the honour of the nation and the republican cause to shake off this viper. It is reported that the President has said that he will support him. This is why the prooffs positive of his guilt is kept back,

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in order to damn the Prest, by the production of them when the thing can be established that he has tried to shelter him from that indignation, that from an indignant publick awaits him. would Joseph H. Davies have hazarded the Publication that he has, if he [ *mutilated* ] by proof positive. rest assured that John Adair whenever he let loose his port folio, it will produce testimony, as he himself has said, “that scepticism itself cannot doubt. I have seen lately, both Daviss and Adair, I have conversed with the travelling companion of Adair from Neworleans here, a man of strict verracity, who does tell me that the prooffs of Wilkingson guilt, both as a pensioner of Spain and a colleague of Burrs, will be made manifest.

I name this to you knowing you to be the real friend of Mr Jefferson and the republican cause and let me once more and for the last time repeat that if Mr Jefferson hugs this man to his boosoom they will both face—this has been long my oppinion, I am now certain of it, —the Publick mind now plainly evinces it,—and notwithstanding I have loved Mr Jefferson as a man, and adored him as a president, could I see him attempt to support such a base man with his present knowledge of his corruption and infamy, I would withdraw that confidence I once reposed in him and regret that I had been deceived in his virtue.

Whether my ideas may meet yours or not, you will at least ascribe to them pure motives—for you certainly do know, that I am [not catering?] for patronage or in persuit of office. it is well known, that neither the state or general goverment has an office in its gift, that I would accept of. My only pride, is, if our country is involved in war, in the station I fill; I will do my duty. My pride is that my soldiers has confidence in me, and on the event of a war I will lead them on, to victory and conquest. Should we be blest with peace, I will resign, my military office, and spend my days, in the sweet calm of rural retirement. May you have a pleasant session, and a safe return to your family, friends and country. . . .